

ochraceis, faciliè distinguenda. Long. tot. c. 270 millim., al. 150, caud. 75, capitis rhachid. vexill. 110 (in *P. seapenni* 170), rostr. culm. 19, tars. 46.

Hab. Nova Guinea, in montibus ad flumen Amberno.

Mr. HENRY SEEBOHM exhibited skins of two new species of birds from the interior of Formosa, collected by Mr. Holst. The first was a Tit of the subgenus *Machlolophus*, which he proposed to call

PARUS HOLSTI, sp. n.

Pileo cristato tergoque viridescenti-nigris: macula nuchali alba: gastræo toto lætissimè flavo.

The second was a Rail, which he named

RALLINA FORMOSANA, sp. n.

Similis, ut videtur, *R. sepiario*, Stegn., sed multò minor: pileo dorso concolore (an jr.?), *R. euryzonoidi* jr. similis, sed valdè saturator.

A full description of these species will appear in 'The Ibis.'

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE stated that he had since discovered that the Plover described by him as *Defilippia burrowsii* (above, p. 138) was the *Vanellus leucopterus* of Reichenow (J. f. O. 1889, p. 265), and the species must therefore be known as *Defilippia leucoptera* (Reichen.).

Mr. A. TREVOR-BATTYE, who had landed in England on the previous evening, received a cordial welcome from his brother members. He gave an interesting account of his explorations in the Island of Kolguev and of his subsequent journey to the Petchora and Archangel.

XIII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Bendire on new Birds from Aldabra Island.*

[Description of Nests and Eggs of some new Birds, collected on the Island of Aldabra, North-west of Madagascar, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xvii. p. 39.]

Dr. W. L. Abbott, well known for his researches in the

Kilimanjaro district of Africa, also visited the Aldabra group, N.W. of Madagascar, and obtained a collection of birds and eggs. Mr. Ridgway has already characterized the new birds. Mr. Bendire now describes the eggs of four species.

2. *Berezowski and Bianchi on the Birds of Kansu.*

[Aves Expeditionis Potanini per provinciam Gan-su et confinia, 1884-87. Auctt. M. Berezowski et V. Bianchi. St. Petersburg, 1891.]

The text of this article, with the exception of the scientific names, being in Russian, we regret not being able to say much about it. It is, however, evidently an account of the birds collected by MM. Berezowski and Bianchi during their travels in the great northern Chinese province of Kan-su and its vicinity, in 1884 and the three following years.

The list of species of which representatives were obtained is 267 in number. The following six species are described as new:—*Trochalopteron sukatschewi*, *Suthora przewalskii*, *Larvivora obscura*, *Pæcile hypermelæna*, *P. davidi*, and *Sitta przewalskii*. The following species are figured in nicely executed coloured plates:—*Trochalopteron sukatschewi*, *Larvivora obscura*, *Suthora przewalskii*, *Pæcile hypermelæna*, *P. davidi*, *Parus venustus*, *Carpodacus trifasciatus*, and *C. stoliczkæ*.

3. *Briggs on the Birds of North Ronaldshay.*

[Some further Bird Notes from North Ronaldshay. By Allan Briggs. Ann. Scottish Nat. Hist. 1894, p. 82.]

Mr. Briggs gives a series of field-notes on the birds observed in North Ronaldshay, the most northern of the Orkney Islands, in 1893. The first Nightjar ever seen there by the author was observed on June 4th. A small colony of Sandwich Terns (*Sterna cantiaca*) nested in Ronaldshay among the Black-headed Gulls in 1893, the first time this species has been known to breed in the group.

4. *Buller on Birds observed on voyages to and from New Zealand.*

[On the Birds observed during a Voyage from New Zealand to England. By Sir W. L. Buller, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., &c. Trans. N. Z. Inst. 1893, p. 182.—Notes made on the Return Voyage from Plymouth to New Zealand. *Op. cit.* p. 189.]

These articles contain a series of chatty notes relating principally to the oceanic birds observed during a voyage home from New Zealand round Cape Horn, and on the return voyage by the Cape of Good Hope. An individual of the Great White Albatross (*Diomedea regia*) is stated to have accompanied the vessel, at intervals, for 970 miles (in a straight line) during the first voyage. The Grey Petrel (*Adamastor cinereus*) was numerous in the extreme southern portion of the track, and the Giant Petrel (*Ossifraga gigantea*) appeared near the island of Diego Ramirez. The general poverty of bird-life in the South Atlantic was very observable.

On the return voyage birds became very numerous on approaching the Cape. A species of small Albatross, Penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*), Shags, Petrels, and Boobies were plentiful, and there was an astonishing number of Gannets. After passing the Cape the Sooty Albatross was constantly seen. The Giant Petrel appeared near Kerguelen's Land. A few days before reaching Hobart the rare *Æstrelata antarctica* was met with.

5. *Chapman (F. M.) on Bird Migration.*

[Remarks on the Origin of Bird Migration. By Frank M. Chapman. Auk, xi. p. 12.]

The Nocturnal Migration of Birds. By Frank M. Chapman. Popular Science Monthly, 1894, p. 506.]

As regards the origin of the migratory instinct in North-American birds, Mr. Chapman considers that Dr. Allen * has given us "as satisfactory a working hypothesis as we can hope to have." When the refrigeration of the earth at the

* "On the Origin of the Instinct of Migration in Birds," Bull. N. O. C. 1880, p. 151.

polar extremities took place, at the close of the Tertiary Epoch, "bird-life must have been crowded thence towards the tropics, and the struggle for life greatly intensified." The less yielding forms became extinct, those less sensitive sought to extend their range by a removal northwards in summer, only to be forced back by the recurrence of winter. This incipient change of locality, according to the seasons, extended itself and became habitual, "and through the heredity of habit gave rise to that wonderful faculty which we term the instinct of migration." To this theory Mr. Chapman wishes to add a few words concerning "the influences which may have aided climatic conditions in establishing the habit of migration." These influences are, if we rightly understand Mr. Chapman, "the instinctive desire for seclusion during the period of reproduction," which drives birds northwards in spring, and the "failure of the food-supply," which leads them to desert their breeding-grounds on the approach of winter and to return south again.

In his second paper Mr. Chapman gives a popular account of the facts recently ascertained in America as to the migration of birds by night, which undoubtedly takes place, whether the phenomenon be habitual or abnormal. On Sept. 26th, 1891, it was his "good fortune" to pass the night in company with other ornithologists at the Bartholdi Statue at the mouth of the Hudson-River valley, in order to witness the migration. The first bird entered the area illuminated by the torch on the Statue at 8 P.M. During the next two hours birds were constantly heard and many were seen. About 10 o'clock, when a light rain began, there were hundreds of arrivals, and the "air was filled with the calls and chirps of the passing host." The ornithologists then ascended to the torch, and remained for two hours, during which thousands of birds passed within sight. At daybreak a few stragglers were still to be seen winging their way southward.

Mr. Chapman describes the following ingenious mode of observing the nocturnal migrants by a telescope. A comparatively low-power glass is focussed on the full moon

during the season of migration, and the birds are watched while crossing the field of vision. In this way on one occasion, during three hours' observation, no less than 264 birds were seen. Under proper focal conditions marked characters of flight and form render it possible to recognize even the species. Thus Ducks, Snipes, and Rails were distinguished with certainty.

6. *Festa on the Birds of Palestine and Syria.*

[Viaggio del Dr. E. Festa in Palestina, nel Libano e regioni vicine. Del Dott. Enrico Festa. Boll. Mus. Zool. ed Anat. Comp. R. Univ. d. Torino. IX. No. 172: Parte narrativa. No. 174: Uccelli.]

We have read Dr. Festa's narrative of his zoological expedition to Palestine and Syria in 1893 with great interest. The author reached Jaffa on March 12th, and proceeded to Jerusalem by road, whence his first excursion was to the convent of Mar-Saba. In the orange-gardens of Jaffa the Syrian Bulbul (*Pycnonotus xanthopygus*) was abundant, and Tristram's Grackle (*Amydrus tristrami*) delighted his eyes at Mar-Saba. In the ravine below the convent he also met with *Cercomela melanura*, and, strange to say, *Turdus musicus*.

Dr. Festa remained in the Dead Sea district and adjoining country on both sides of the Jordan until the beginning of May, when he returned to Jaffa, and proceeded by steamer to Beyrout. His narrative contains many allusions to birds, amongst which, besides those already mentioned, he met with *Cinnyris oseæ*, *Garrulus atricapillus*, and *Argya squamiceps*. From Beyrout Dr. Festa went into the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon and on to Damascus, whence he proceeded into the Hauran and so back to Beyrout. A second excursion to the Cedars and Baalbec was made in June and July.

On the Lake of Tiberias, *Ceryle rudis* and *Halcyon smyrnensis* were both observed. *Cypselus affinis* was found nesting in caverns near Ain-et-Tin. *Otocorys penicillata* and *Serinus canonicus* occurred high up on Hermon and in the Lebanon. The beautiful *Erithacus gutturalis* was rare, but was met with on the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon.

In Dr. Festa's list are enumerated 120 species of birds, all of which seem to have been registered in Tristram's 'Fauna and Flora,' except *Parus cæruleus*, obtained in the woods of the Wady Seir, east of the Jordan. The single specimen brought home was brighter in colouring than European examples.

Two new subspecific names are proposed for Palestine forms—*Petronia stulta puteicola* and *Alauda cristata deserticolor*. Dr. Festa doubts the occurrence of *Cinnyris osee* at Beyrout, but he has omitted to notice Dr. Van Dyck's evidence on this subject (*Ibis*, 1892, p. 469).

7. Goodchild on the Birds of Swaledale.

[Some of the Birds observed in Upper Swaledale. By J. G. Goodchild, H.M. Geol. Surv., F.G.S., &c. *The Naturalist*, 1890, p. 248.]

Mr. Goodchild registers the birds observed in Upper Swaledale, Yorkshire. The Snow-Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) is a "regular visitant on migration."

8. Gurney on Female Birds in Male Plumage.

[On the Partial Assumption by Female Birds of Male Plumage. By J. H. Gurney, F.L.S., F.Z.S. *Zoologist*, 1894, p. 15.]

In 'The Ibis' for 1888, Mr. Gurney gave a list of 24 species of birds in which one or more instances of a female assuming male plumage had been recorded. Mr. Gurney now publishes an additional list of 9 species, making 33 in all, besides some uncertain cases. This phenomenon, as is well known, is most frequent in the Gallinaceous birds and Anatidæ, but is likewise occasionally met with among the Passeres (Redstart and Red-backed Shrike), also in some Accipitres (for instance, the Kestrel).

9. Hartert on the Birds of the Natuna Islands.

[List of the first Collection of Birds from the Natuna Islands. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zoologicæ*, p. 469.]

The Natuna Islands, as Mr. Rothschild tells us in an introduction to the present paper, extend from Tanjong Api,

the N.W. Cape of Borneo, some 190 miles into the Indian Ocean, and are divisible into three groups—the South Natunas, the Great Natunas, and North Natuna or Pulo Laut. The collection now described by Mr. Hartert was formed by Mr. A. Everett on Sirhassen Island in the southern group, in September 1893, and on Bunguran Island, the largest of the Great Natunas, in September and October 1893. The specimens are referred to 66 species, of which *Malacopteron cinereum bungurensis*, *Stachyris natunensis*, *Mixornis everetti*, *Graucalus bungurensis*, and *Philentoma dubium* are described as new.

Mr. Hartert concludes that, judging from the present material, the Natunan Ornis is more Malaccan than Bornean, at least five of the species being identical with those of the Malay Peninsula, while representative forms of them are found in Borneo. Moreover, some of the new species are more nearly allied to Malaccan than to Bornean forms.

10. Hartert on two Species of Trochalopteron.

[On the Distinctness of *Trochalopteron ellioti*, Verr., and *T. prejevalskii*, Menzb. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zoologicæ*, i. p. 668.]

Mr. Hartert points out that *Trochalopteron ellioti* of Moupin and *T. prejevalskii* of Gan-su—which have been united by Pleske—are quite distinct species.

11. Hartert on Eggs from Northern China.

[On Little-known and Undescribed Eggs from the Kuku-Noor. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zoologicæ*, i. p. 669.]

Mr. Hartert describes a small series of eggs obtained “in the province of Amdo, only a little east of the Koko-Nor,” by a collector employed by Herr Tancreé, and received by the Tring Museum. They belong to 15 species, amongst which are such interesting forms as *Chimarrhornis leucocephalus* and *Podoces humilis*.

12. Hartert on the Eggs of a Swift.

[Nest and Eggs of *Micropus subfurcatus* (Blyth). By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zoologicæ*, i. p. 674.]

The author describes the nest and eggs of *Micropus* (scr. *Cypselus*) *subfurcatus*, transmitted from Sarawak by Mr. E. Bartlett.

13. *Hartert on two new Venezuelan Birds.*

[On two new Venezuelan Birds. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zoologicae*, i. p. 674.]

Two new Venezuelan birds—*Dysithamnus tucuyensis* and *Eupsychortyx mocquerysi*—are described and figured.

14. *Hinxman and Clarke on the Birds of West Ross-shire.*

[A Contribution to the Vertebrate Fauna of West Ross-shire. By Lionel W. Hinxman, B.A., and William Eagle Clarke, F.L.S., &c. *Proc. R. Phys. Soc. Edinb.* xii. p. 377.]

After an instructive sketch of the physical features of West Ross-shire, the authors give an annotated list of the terrestrial vertebrates of that district. The birds as yet noted are 132, of which 91 are reckoned as breeding species. In West Ross the nest of the Snow-Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) has not yet been obtained, but fully-fledged young have been observed, and there can be no doubt that the bird breeds on the higher mountains.

15. *Jentink on the Birds of Holland.*

[Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle des Pays-Bas.—Tome XIV. Catalogue systématique de la Collection de feu Mr. J. P. van Wickevoort Crommelin. Par F. A. Jentink. 8vo. Leide, 1894.]

The valuable series of the birds of Holland formed by the late Mr. J. P. van Wickevoort Crommelin (see *Ibis*, 1892, p. 352) has been presented to the Leyden Museum by his daughter, on condition of its being kept apart from the rest of the Collections. Dr. Jentink now gives us a complete catalogue of the specimens contained in it, which are altogether 1968 in number, with dates and localities recorded for each of them. The result is a catalogue of the birds of Holland which will be most useful to the student of European ornithology.

16. *Le Souëf's Trip to North Queensland.*

[A Trip to North Queensland. By D. Le Souëf. Victorian Naturalist, xi. p. 3.]

Mr. Le Souëf has given the members of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria a lively and interesting account of his recent trip to Northern Queensland. The particular object of the expedition was to procure living specimens of the Tree-Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*) and other animals for the Melbourne Zoological Gardens, but special attention was evidently also given to birds and their nests, and much information was obtained on this subject.

Mr. Le Souëf's first halting-place was at Mr. Barnard's Station near Rockhampton, where it was hoped to obtain examples of a rare snake (*Aspidistes melanocephalus*). Although unsuccessful in this, Mr. Le Souëf found a lot of birds nesting, *Podargus strigoides*, *Pachycephala melanura*, and *Psephotus pulcherrimus*. The last-named bores holes into the white ants' mounds, and forms a chamber in the interior for its five white eggs, being the only Australian Parrot with this peculiar habit.

After short stays at Townsville, where *Estrelda bichenovii* and *Cinnyris frenata* were found breeding, and Cooktown, where other good observations were made, Mr. Le Souëf started for Bloomfield, some 30 miles further up the coast, in a cutter, and arrived at Mr. Hislop's Station, Wyalla, about five miles off. Several pages are devoted to the author's notes and discoveries in this district, which appears to offer excellent collecting-ground for the naturalist. The house is placed on rising ground five miles from the sea, "with low-lying, open, forest-land intervening," while high mountain-ranges of scrub mixed with large trees adjoin it at the back. The Scrub-Turkey (*Talegalla lathamii*) is plentiful on the range, while the Scrub-Hen (*Megapodius tumulus*) makes its much larger mounds in the coast district. Amongst other rarities the beautiful Pigeon, *Ptilopus superbus*, a Rifle-bird (*Ptilorhis victoriae*), *Myzomela obscura*, and *Pitta strepitans* were found breeding. *Tanysiptera sylvia* arrives in October, and bores its nest-holes in the termites' mounds.

A nest and egg (white) of Spalding's Orthonyx (*Orthonyx spaldingi*) were obtained, and a playing-place of the Tooth-billed Bower-bird (*Scenopæus dentirostris*) was discovered. The Australian Cassowary (*Casuarius australis*) also inhabits these scrubs. Mr. Le Souëf left on his return to Melbourne on Nov. 15th, delighted, as may be well supposed, with his successful expedition and the results.

17. *Le Souëf on some Australian Birds'-eggs.*

[Description of some Australian Birds'-eggs and Nests collected at Bloomfield, near Cooktown, Queensland. By D. Le Souëf. Proc. R. Soc. Victoria, 1894, p. 19.]

In this paper Mr. Le Souëf gives technical descriptions and field-notes on the oological novelties obtained during his Queensland expedition, such as *Mimeta flavo-cinctus*, *Sphecotheres flaviventris*, *Micræca flavigastra*, and *Ptilorhis victoriae*. It is of great interest that the Orioles (*Mimeta*) seem to breed in the society of the Friar-birds (*Tropidorhynchi*), which in some cases they mimic in plumage, and to imitate their nests.

In an appendix to this article, Mr. A. J. Campbell characterizes a Flycatcher of the genus *Arses* procured in Queensland by Mr. Le Souëf as a new species—*Arses terræ-reginæ*—but Mr. Le Souëf (as stated in a letter to the Editors) is now of opinion that it is merely the adult male of *A. kaupi*.

18. *Lucas on the Tongue of the Cape-May Warbler.*

[The Tongue of the Cape-May Warbler. By Frederic A. Lucas. Auk, 1894, p. 141.]

This is a small contribution to a very interesting and important subject. The tongue of the Passeres has not yet been by any means thoroughly examined, and this organ may evidently prove to be of no small importance in the vexed question of the classification of this extensive order. Mr. Lucas describes and figures the tongues of some species of *Dendræca*, *Glossiptila*, *Acanthorhynchus*, and *Cæreba*, and points out their differences. It appears that the principal character of the so-called genus *Perissoglossa* has originated

in error, and that the term may be cancelled. It is shown also that the tongues of *Cœreba cyanea* and *C. cœrulea* are essentially different.

19. *Meyer and Wigglesworth on Birds from the Talaut Islands.*

[Ueber eine erste Sammlung von Vögeln von den Talaut Inseln. Von A. B. Meyer und L. W. Wigglesworth. J. f. O. 1894, p. 237.]

The authors describe a collection of birds (referable to 48 species) received at Dresden from two of the Talaut Islands, Kabruang and Salibabu, between Celebes and the Philippines. The chief island of the group, Karkelong, is, as yet, ornithologically unexplored, and when this desirable object has been accomplished, will, no doubt, throw more light on the alliances of the Talautian avifauna. The following six species and subspecies are described as new:—*Eos histrio talautensis*, *Zeocephus talautensis*, *Hermotimia talautensis*, *Pitta inspeculata*, *Oriolus melanisticus*, and *Carpophaga intermedia*.

20. *North on Nesting-habits of some Australian Birds.*

[Exhibition of, and remarks upon, the Eggs of *Collyriocincla harmonica* and *Cacomantis pallida*. By Alfred J. North. Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, ser. 2, viii. p. 436.]

Mr. North, an acute observer of the nesting-habits of Australian birds, points out that if the parasitic Cuckoos of New South Wales deposit their eggs in the nests of *Malurus cyaneus*, before the rightful owner begins to lay, the nest-makers cover it over with a thick layer of nest-material, so as to defeat the object of the intruder. Mr. Hudson has noticed a corresponding habit in the case of *Sisopygis icterophrys* in Argentina (Arg. Orn. i. p. 125).

21. *North on the Parrakeet of Norfolk Island.*

[Notes on the Red-crowned Parrakeet (*Cyanorhamphus cooki*) of Norfolk Island. By Alfred J. North, F.L.S. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, ser. 2, viii. p. 517.]

Mr. North, having procured two authentic specimens of the Parrakeet of Norfolk Island, admits that Count Salva-

dori was correct in stating (Ibis, 1893, p. 466) that the species is quite different from *C. novæ-zelandiæ*, and that *C. rayneri* is identical with *C. cooki*—the proper name of the Norfolk-Island bird. It would seem that the species of this genus, which formerly inhabited Lord Howe Island, has become extinct.

22. *Ogilvie-Grant on the Changes of Plumage in the Red Grouse.*

[On the Changes of Plumage in the Red Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*). By W. R. Ogilvie-Grant. Ann. Scottish Nat. Hist. 1894, p. 129.]

We may fairly presume that no living ornithologist knows more about the various plumages of the Red Grouse of Scotland than Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, and that his views are entitled to respect, if not to acquiescence. The results that he has arrived at are as follows:—“The male has no distinct summer-plumage, but has distinct autumn- and winter-plumages, and retains the latter throughout the breeding-season.

“The female has a distinct summer-plumage, which is complete by the end of April or the beginning of May: also a distinct autumn-plumage, which is retained until the following spring.

“To put it more shortly, both male and female have two distinct moults during the year, but in the male they occur in autumn and winter, and in the female in spring and autumn; the former having no distinct spring- and the latter no distinct winter-plumage.”

These remarkable facts, which the author believes to be without parallel in ornithology, are fully explained in the present article, and illustrated by useful coloured plates.

23. *Pražák on the Birds of Bohemia.*

[1. Kritische Uebersicht aller bisher in Böhmen nachgewiesenen Vögel. Von J. Prok. Pražák. Mitth. ornith. Ver. in Wien, Jahrg. xviii. pp. 3, 20, 36, 52 (1894).

2. Ornithologische Beobachtungen aus Nord-Ost-Böhmen, 1888-92. Orn. Jahrb. iv. p. 85.

3. Zur Ornithologie Nord-Ost-Böhmens. *Op. cit.* v. p. 41.

4. Beiträge zur Ornithologie Böhmens. *Mitth. orn. Ver. Wien*, xvii. p. 177.]

Herr J. Prok. Pražák, who is an old disciple of Fritzsich of Prague, now on the staff of the Imp. N. H. Museum, Vienna, reprints from 'Die Schwalbe' a new list of the birds ascertained to have occurred in Bohemia up to Oct. 1st last year. They are 358 in number. The German names are added and a few critical footnotes. The resident species are indicated by an asterisk.

Herr Pražák has also contributed to the *Orn. Jahrb.* and other periodicals several articles on the birds of N.E. Bohemia, of which he kindly sends us copies. They will furnish much useful information to students of the European Ornithology.

24. *Radde on the Public Museum of Tiflis.*

[Bericht über das Kaukasische Museum und die öffentliche Bibliothek in Tiflis für das Jahr 1893. 8vo. Tiflis, 1894.]

In this report our excellent correspondent Dr. Radde gives an account of the progress made at the Tiflis Museum under his charge in 1893. Prefaced to this is a short narrative of his summer excursion of 1893, which was devoted to the scientific examination of the eastern coastlands of the Black Sea and the neighbouring ranges from Batum to Anapa. Of this journey, undertaken in company with Herr E. Koenig, a full account has been recently published in the *Ergänzungsheft* (no. 112) of Petermann's 'Mittheilungen' (1894).

25. *Rey on the European Cuckoo.*

[Altes und Neues aus dem Haushalte des Kuckucks, von Dr. Eugène Rey. *Marshall's Zool. Vorträge*. Heft xi. 8vo. Leipzig, 1892.]

Dr. Rey's elaborate essay on the economy and habits of the Cuckoo is well worthy of careful study. The author, amongst other particulars, gives a table of 531 Cuckoo's eggs, the results of an examination of which are very curious. With us in England the Hedge-Sparrow, the Meadow-Pipit, and the Pied Wagtail are the commonest foster-parents of

the Cuckoo. From Dr. Rey's evidence it would appear that in Germany the Red-backed Shrike, the White Wagtail, and the Redstart are the favourites, as the eggs laid in these birds' nests comprise half of the total number of Cuckoos' eggs which have come under Dr. Rey's notice (24 per cent., 14 per cent., and 12 per cent. respectively). Of the 531 Cuckoos' eggs observed by Dr. Rey, 180 (or 30 per cent.) resemble in colour the eggs of the foster-parent, and, curiously enough, out of 67 Cuckoos' eggs found in Redstarts' nests, 57 were blue. Dr. Rey attempts to arrange the foster-parents of the Cuckoo geographically; but as nearly all his Cuckoo-eggs have been collected in Germany, the statistics of the other countries may be passed over as embracing too few examples to yield a correct average. The following analysis of the German examples of eggs laid, with the species, of which he records more than twenty examples, are interesting :—

Lanius collurio	172	Sylvia cinerea	45
Motacilla alba	155	— nisoria	34
Sylvia hortensis	103	Ruticilla phœnicurus	25
Troglodytes parvulus	82	Acrocephalus phragmitis . . .	25
Acrocephalus arundinaceus . .	71	— palustris	23
Erithacus rubecula	57		

The list of the various foster-parents of the Cuckoo has now reached to 117 species, but in many cases Dr. Rey admits that the evidence is unsatisfactory. It sometimes happens that two and even in some cases three Cuckoo's eggs have been found in one nest. In these cases it is generally found that the two eggs are very different, no doubt being laid by different parents, and in the few cases where they resemble each other it is possible that the similarity may be due to the fact that two different Cuckoos may lay very similar eggs. Dr. Rey admits that the same Cuckoo lays similar eggs year after year.

Cuckoo's eggs have thick shells. In size they are slightly larger than those of the Crested Lark, but not quite so large as those of the Red-backed Shrike; nevertheless, they are 25 per cent. heavier than the former, and 21 per cent. heavier

than the latter (weighed after being blown). Dr. Rey gives an interesting formula for Cuckoo's eggs; the length multiplied by the breadth (in millimeters) divided by the weight (in milligrams) varies from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2, by far the greater number of eggs giving a quotient between 1.4 and 1.8.

Dr. Rey is of opinion that the average number of eggs laid by each Cuckoo in a season is about 20, and that they are laid every alternate day, making the total laying-period about 40 days. Statistics of more than a thousand Cuckoos' eggs are given, and an enormous number of facts are thus brought together in this very interesting disquisition.

26. *Rothschild on Albinism in Birds.*

[On Albino Swallows and Wheatears. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild. *Novitates Zoologicæ*, i. p. 667.]

Mr. Rothschild's remarks refer to the relationship of albinos to each other, and to their occurrence in nests of the same parents for several years together.

27. *Rothschild on Chalcopsittacus duivenbodei.*

[On the Habitat of *Chalcopsittacus duivenbodei*, Dubois. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild. *Novitates Zoologicæ*, i. p. 677.]

Mr. Rothschild has received a specimen of this rare Lory from near Stephansort, in German New Guinea. The exact locality was previously unknown.

28. *Rothschild and Hartert on a new form of Pigeon.*

[*Salvadorina waigiensis*, gen. nov. et sp. nov. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild and Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zoologicæ*, i. p. 683.]

Salvadorina waigiensis is a new form of Anatidæ from Waigiou, of somewhat uncertain affinities. A single specimen was received at Tring in a large collection of skins made in North-western New Guinea and the adjacent islands by Heer Bruijn of Ternate.

29. *Schalow on the Oology of the Ratitæ.*

[Beiträge zur Oologie der recenten Ratiten. Von Herman Schalow. J. f. O. 1894, p. 1.]

Herr Schalow gives us in this memoir an excellent *résumé*

of the present state of our knowledge of the oology of the Ratitæ. The three forms of *Struthio* seem to be quite distinct as regards the structure of their eggs, and will ultimately, in all probability, be found also to present good differential characters in the birds themselves, though their characters are not yet sufficiently understood, nor have the ranges of the forms been exactly made out. *Apteryx* is unquestionably quite different from the rest of the Ratitæ oologically, and seems to be more nearly allied to the Grallæ.

30. *Schalow on the question whether the German Ornis is worked out.*

[Darf die Erforschung der deutschen Vogelwelt als abgeschlossen betrachtet werden? Vortrag gehalten auf der Jahresversammlung zu Cassel, am 25. September, 1893. Von Herman Schalow. J. f. O. 1894, p. 270.]

This stirring question formed the subject of Herr Schalow's address to the Annual Meeting of the members of the German Ornithologists' Society at Cassel, on September 25th, 1893. It is not difficult to guess that the author answers it decidedly in the negative. In the first place, he points out, a new critical list of German birds, bringing this subject up to the present date, is much required for the use of the student. Then the subspecies require to be distinguished from the species, and various other improvements to be made. We need hardly say that we agree generally with Herr Schalow, but regret that as regards nomenclature the German ornithologists appear more inclined to follow the American school than the views generally held in this country.

31. *Stejneger on a Japanese Reed-Warbler.*

[Notes on a Japanese Species of Reed-Warbler. By Leonhard Stejneger. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xvii. p. 205.]

Mr. Stejneger points out that the Reed-Warbler of Japan, which he named *Locustella hondoensis* in 1893, is identical with *Locustella pleskei* of Taczanowski (P. Z. S. 1889, p. 620), and ought to bear the latter name.

32. *Stone on the Old-World Rallinæ.*

[A Review of the Old-World Rallinæ. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1894, p. 130.]

Had Mr. Stone been aware of the approaching issue of the twenty-third volume of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds, we can hardly suppose that he would have published the present paper, which is a cursory review of the established generic and specific names of the Old-World Rallidæ, without going into their characters. In some questions of nomenclature where his views diverge from those of Dr. Sharpe, Mr. Stone is entitled to attention, but he appears to be personally unacquainted with many of the species.

33. *Tait on the Birds of Portugal.*

[Aves de Portugal. Por W. C. Tait. Ann. Scienc. Naturaes, Porto, i. (1894), p. 21.]

Mr. W. C. Tait commences a new memoir on the birds of Portugal, a country of special interest to British ornithologists, in a recent number of the 'Annals of Natural Sciences of Oporto,' with some excellent introductory remarks on previous authorities and on the leading features of the avifauna.

34. *Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on Colymbus adamsi in Austria.*

[Erstes Exemplar des östlichen Eistauchers (*Colymbus glacialis adamsi*, Gray) aus Oesterreich-Ungarn. Von Vict. Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Ornith. Jahrb. v. 1894, p. 145.]

The author records the existence in the Museum of Linz, Austria, of a young example of *Colymbus adamsi*, procured in 1840 on the Attersee in Upper Austria, and gives particulars about it.

35. *Verrill on the Birds of Dominica.*

[Notes on the Fauna of the Island of Dominica, British West Indies, with Lists of the Species obtained and observed by G. E. and A. H. Verrill. Trans. Conn. Acad. viii. p. 315 (1892).]

Mr. G. E. Verrill, with his brother Mr. A. H. Verrill, visited Dominica in the spring of 1890, and gives an account

of the vertebrates collected and observed in that island in the present paper. The list of birds contains the names of 54 species—"very nearly all the land-birds, but comparatively few of the aquatic species." The species have been identified by Mr. Allen. One of the singularities of Dominican ornithology is the possession of two large and quite distinct species of *Chrysotis*. *C. augusta* is said to be common among the mountains on the windward side of the island, and *C. bouqueti* is found in the same localities, but more rarely. Speaking of the former, Messrs. Verrill say :—

"It was mainly to procure these Imperial Parrots, so seldom seen in collections, that our trip was made to Bassenville, which is a single house in the primeval forest, and only to be reached by one of the worst trails ever travelled, and we have spent a number of months among the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This trip, however, well repaid us for our trouble, as it was there that we took many of our best birds and other specimens ; but though Parrots were seen nearly every day, and we were accompanied by Mr. Hennessey Dupigny and another hunter, our united efforts secured but two of these shy birds in the ten days we were there."

As already shown by Mr. Allen ('Auk,' 1891, pp. 217, 317) the *Mimocichla* of Dominica, which Sclater (P. Z. S. 1889, p. 326) could not distinguish from *M. ardesiaca* except as a subspecies, seems to possess greater distinctive characters than were appreciable in Mr. Ramage's two specimens. Messrs. Verrill prefer the name "*verrillorum*" for it to that of *albiventris* previously proposed and ultimately adopted by Mr. Allen. It was "very rare and shy," and only two examples were obtained.

Messrs. Verrill conclude their paper with a complete list of all the birds of Dominica yet known—63 in number.

36. *Waugh and Lataste on Chilean Birds.*

[Quelques Jours de Chasse à Peñaflo during the Months of January and of Mars. Par Enrique Waugh et Fernand Lataste. Procès-verb. Soc. Scient. d. Chili, 1894, pl. lxxxiii.]

The authors give field-notes on 36 species of Chilean birds of which examples were obtained at Peñaflo, on the Mapocho,

in the months of January and March. The old-fashioned and mostly erroneous nomenclature of Gay is employed instead of James's New Chilian List; and we fear that the names cannot always be relied upon:—for example, the so-called "*Turdus fuscater*," which is resident at Peñaflores, no doubt, *T. magellanicus*. Other errors are obvious, and M. Lataste should send his specimens home for determination if he cannot distinguish them himself.

37. *Winge on the Birds observed at the Danish Light-stations in 1893.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1893. 11te Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Medd. naturh. Foren. i Kjøbenhavn, 1894, p. 15.]

Mr. Winge's eleventh annual report on the birds met with at the Danish Light-stations is drawn up in his habitually clear and exhaustive manner. Thirty-six stations sent 780 specimens of birds in 1893, which are referred to 56 species. The usual field-notes are given, and an outline map shows the exact position of the various light-houses.

XIV.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed to the Editors, since our last issue:—

SIRS,—With reference to the article "Ornithology at Munich, Stuttgart, Darmstadt, Frankfort, and Cassel," in 'The Ibis' of January last (p. 106), I beg leave to address you a few lines.

The "Zoologisch-zootomische Sammlung" at Munich belongs to the State. It is true there are no official ornithologists attached thereto, but some gentlemen residing at Munich, who are chiefly conversant with Bavarian ornithology (such as the undersigned), would most willingly have undertaken to conduct Mr. Selater, and have given him all the information at their disposal concerning German and Bavarian birds.